MEMORANDUM

IRCA

Agenda Item No. 2 (D)

TO:

Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez

and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE:

February 15, 2006

FROM:

Murray A. Greenberg

County Attorney

SUBJECT:

Resolution urging Congress

to oppose legislation requiring Medicaid

applicants to document their citizenship through a passport

or birth certificate

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.

County Attorney

MAG/bw

(Revised) TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez March 7, 2006 DATE: and Members, Board of County Commissioners FROM: SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. County Attorney Please note any items checked. "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget **Budget required** Statement of fiscal impact required

Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation

Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's

Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)

report for public hearing

No committee review

Approved _		Mayor		Agenda	Item No.
Veto _				3-7-06	
Override _					
	RESOLU	TION NO.			
	RESOLUTION	URGING	CONGRESS		OPPOSE

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION REQUIRING MEDICAID APPLICANTS TO DOCUMENT THEIR U.S. CITIZENSHIP EITHER THROUGH A PASSPORT OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE

WHEREAS, language has been included in 2006 Deficit Reduction Act that would require all citizens applying or reapplying for Medicaid to produce either a passport or a birth certificate to prove they are U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, this provision includes no exceptions for any Medicaid applicant or beneficiary, including individuals who are affected by emergencies such as hurricanes; those with severe physical or mental impairments such as Alzheimer's disease, and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C. predicts that requiring Medicaid applicants to produce either a passport or birth certificate will create significant enrollment barriers for millions of low-income citizens who meet all Medicaid eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.5 million people apply or reapply for Medicaid in Florida each year and thus would be required to produce either a passport or a birth certificate to continue to receive Medicaid coverage; and

WHEREAS, many poor people do not have passports and do not have ready access to their birth certificates because they live far from the cities and towns where they were born; and

WHEREAS, the Center suggests that requiring either a passport or birth certificate could hit African-American communities particularly hard because a large number of African-American women, especially in the South, were unable to give birth in hospitals as a result of racial discrimination and never received birth certificates for their babies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Congress to oppose legislation that would require Medicaid applicants to document their U.S. citizenship either through a passport or birth certificate.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate against the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2006 Federal Legislative Package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and offered by Commissioner , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman

Bruno A. Barreiro Audrey M. Edmonson Sally A. Heyman Dorrin D. Rolle Katy Sorenson Sen. Javier D. Souto Jose "Pepe" Diaz Carlos A. Gimenez Barbara J. Jordan Natacha Seijas Rebeca Sosa

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The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of March, 2006. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

MMC

Jess M. McCarty